

plete the work ; to crown the efforts of Luther and others by carrying their work farther than they ever dared go ; a man who had the *whole truth* and the courage to declare to the world the greatest truth to which it had listened since the time of the Apostles Savonarola and Luther had denounced the wickedness of the Church and demanded reform, but it remained for a poor cobbler's apprentice to expound the doctrine of man's direct responsibility to God without the intervention of so much as a pastor. And the name of George Fox has passed into history as enfranchiser of the human race. In his youth George Fox was accustomed to meditate upon God and his dealings with men, and as he grew to manhood he was oftentimes troubled and deeply perplexed as he beheld the vanity and wickedness of those about him. He endured great mental agonies, and in his trouble he sought help of those whom he deemed best fitted to help him ; but he received nothing that could satisfy a nature like his. Finally relief came. The Spirit within showed him that though all the world were tossed about as on a troubled sea, yet he was stayed fast by hope, which was as an anchor to his soul. From that time till his death he ever looked for guidance to a Light within, and no more sought outward help. Then he began his great life work.

Martin Luther had two great failings. He was often so carried away by excitement that he would utter wild, unreasonable words, and then he who preached freedom to others was himself a slave to superstition. George Fox had neither of these traits. He always spoke earnestly, but was remarkable for his perfect self-possession under all circumstances, and he believed in God as an all-loving Father too firmly to have any superstition. Soon after he received the divine assurance that he possessed that Hope which the world cannot give nor take away, he felt called to preach against the evils of that century. This was

his life work, and he pursued it with never-failing zeal. Often he was threatened, persecuted, and imprisoned for the truth's sake, but he always stood firm. Fearing no one but his Creator he bowed down to none other. He taught the sinfulness of taking oaths, and gave constant testimony against the abomination of war—two things which after two hundred years are coming to be regarded as he regarded them. Having little education, he nevertheless understood human nature so well, and was so filled with divine inspiration that he was able to set forth the truth in such terms as stirred the hardest hearts, and made wicked men fear and tremble as they listened. He was a strong advocate of education, but thought a course at Oxford not essential to one about to enter the ministry. After he had spent a few years in showing men the error of their ways, and in teaching them to worship God *in the Spirit*, and when many thoughtful people had joined the cause for which he was devoting his life, the name of "Quakers" was given in derision to those who upheld the doctrines of Spiritual Worship and Equal Brotherhood. Afterwards these people formed the Society of Friends. During the latter part of his life, George Fox gave much attention to establishing this Society, and even came to America to visit and encourage the members here. As the founder of the denomination of Friends, he doubtless fulfilled God's purposes for him, but it is as the late Spurgeon said : "George Fox was a blessing, not to the Friends alone, but to all Christendom. He was sent of God not only with a view to this Society in after years, but to the Christian Church of that time, and to the Church of God in all times." He died in 1690, having accomplished more toward reforming the civilized world than all the reformers previous to him.

Such, briefly, was the life of the Apostle of Liberty. And you, and I, and every one who enjoys the privilege of worshipping God without the inter-